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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,890

Examiner

John Rivell

Applicant(s)

ROBB ET AL.

Art Unit

3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to election filed 12/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.
9. ☐ Other _____.

Applicant's election without traverse of the species of Group I, figure 4, claims 1-20 in the reply filed on December 2, 2005 is acknowledged.

Claims 20-27 are thus withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on December 2, 2005.

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 20-27 directed to a species non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 20-27 have been cancelled.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows in order to correct a minor grammar error.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (amended) An assembly for connecting two adjacent liquid collection basins, the assembly comprising a first liquid collection basin having a front wall with an opening, a second liquid collection basin having a front wall with an opening, a first support frame having an inner edge affixed to the first liquid collection basin front wall around the opening, the first support frame also having an outer edge spaced from the

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inner edge, a flume for connecting the first liquid collection basin to the second liquid collection basin, the flume comprising a generally rectangular structure having a top section, a bottom section and two side sections, an inward flange along one side of the flume and an outward flange along an opposite side of the flume, a second support frame having an inner edge affixed to the second liquid collection basin front wall around the opening, the second support frame also having an outer edge spaced from the inner edge, a cover plate adjacent the outer edge of the first support frame and the inward flange of the flume a plurality of first connection devices securing the cover plate to the outer edge of the first support frame, a plurality of second connection devices securing the cover plate to the inward flange of the flume, and a plurality of third connection devices securing the outward edge of the flume to the outer edge of the second support frame.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to anticipate or properly render obvious an assembly connecting two adjacent liquid basins in which a connecting conduit is attached to one of the basins at a front wall opening supporting a first support frame having an inner edge affixed to the basin wall around the opening, the first support frame also having an outer edge spaced from the inner edge, the connecting conduit including an inward flange along one side of the conduit and an outward flange along an opposite side of the conduit, a second support frame having an inner edge affixed to the other liquid basin front wall opening, a cover plate adjacent the outer edge of the first support frame and the inward flange of the conduit and connecting elements attaching the cover plate

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to the outer edge of the first support frame, securing the cover plate to the inward flange of the conduit and securing the outward flange of the conduit to the outer edge of the second support frame as recited in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Rivell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4918. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. from 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Mancene can be reached on (571) 272-4930. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Rivell
Primary Examiner
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j.r.